

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
MID -DAY MEAL SCHEME
Mahto Shri Tek Lal;Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent incidents of children falling sick and dying by consuming food provided under the mid-day meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the action taken for the irregularities in the mid- day meal scheme during the last three years and the current year till date;
- (d) the effective measures taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents;
- (e) whether the Government has issued new guidelines in respect of mid- day meal scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 96 for answer on 28.11.2006 asked by Shri Hemlal Murmu and Shri Tek Lal Mahto regarding Mid-day Meal Scheme

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Fifteen State Governments, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and Tamil Nadu have informed that no incidents of death have occurred due to consumption of mid-day meal. However the following States have reported that children have taken ill due to consumption of mid-day meal:-

Karnataka: 1242 children were taken ill in 34 schools. The cooks who were found to be negligent were removed and new cooks appointed.

Maharashtra: 208 children fell ill in four districts (temporary uneasiness and vomiting sensation). After enquiry, in Jalgaon district, an FIR was filed.

Rajasthan: 10 children were reported ill in Rajasmand; appropriate steps were taken to terminate the services of the cook and transfer the Head Master and Teachers concerned.

In Karauli district 61 children were affected. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the Block Development Officer, Additional Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishad and School Head Master and Teacher.

Tamil Nadu: 77 children were taken ill in Muttavakkam Panchayat Union Primary School of Kancheepuram district. Forensic test revealed that the toor dal used for cooking contained fungus, the presence of which rendered the food unfit for human consumption. The Nutrition Meal Organizer, Cook and Assistant were placed under suspension for negligence.

Information from remaining 13 States is being collected.

States have been advised to take following important measures to check recurrence of such incidents:-

- (i) Construction of pucca Kitchen-cum-store so that mid-day meal is prepared in hygienic environment;
- (ii) Kitchen-cum-store to be kept clean and dry. There should be adequate light, proper ventilation and arrangement for drainage and waste disposal;
- (iii) Safe storage of fuel (kerosene/fuel wood/charcoal/LPG, etc.). Cooking staff/agency trained appropriately in safe handling of stove, gas cylinders, etc.

(iv) Appropriate training to cooks, helpers and other functionaries about hygienic habits.

(v) Foodgrains should be lifted from Food Corporation of India (FCI) depot after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and nominee of the State Government. Only Fair Average Quality of foodgrains should be accepted by the State agencies.

(vi) Ingredients used for cooking, food grains, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil and condiments, should be free from adulteration and pest infestation, and should be used only after proper cleaning and washing;

(vii) Ingredients should be stored in proper containers, which should protect them from moisture, pests, etc.

(viii) Cooking and serving utensils should be properly cleaned and dried every day after use.

(ix) Support of community members be solicited to ensure that children wash their hands with soap before eating, use clean plates and rinse their hands and mouth after eating.

(e) & (f): Revised Guidelines were issued to States in September, 2006. The main features of the Guidelines are as follows:-

(i) Provision of mid-day meal with nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein.

(ii) In addition to free foodgrains and transport subsidy, assistance for cooking cost as per following:-

(a) States in North- :- @Rs. 1.80 per child per Eastern Region school day, provided the State Govt. contributes a minimum of 20 paise

(b) For Other States & :- @Rs. 1.50 per child per UTs school day provided the State Govt./UT Admn. Contributes a minimum of 50 paise

(iii) Assistance for construction of kitchen-cum-store up to a maximum of Rs. 60,000 per unit.

(iv) Assistance for kitchen devices @Rs. 5,000 per school.